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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/541,834	01/04/2006	Kim A. Beazley	11899.0237.PCUS00	4277
45607	7590	12/27/2007	EXAMINER	
HOWREY LLP C/O IP DOCKETING DEPARTMENT 2941 FAIRVIEW PARK DRIVE SUITE 200 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22042			KRUSE, DAVID H	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1638				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
12/27/2007		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/541,834	BEAZLEY ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	David H. Kruse	1638	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-32 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions, which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-6 and 10, drawn to glyphosate tolerant alfalfa event J-101 and first method of using same.

Group II, claim(s) 7-9, drawn to an isolated DNA polynucleotide primer molecule.

Group III, claim(s) 11, drawn to a method of detecting the presence of DNA corresponding to the alfalfa plant J-101 DNA by performing a nucleic acid amplification reaction.

Group IV, claim(s) 12, drawn to a method of detecting the presence of DNA corresponding to the alfalfa plant J-101 DNA by using a probe and hybridization.

Group V, claim(s) 13, drawn to an alfalfa plant comprising a glyphosate tolerant trait genetically linked to a complement of a marker polynucleic acid comprising SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2.

Group VI, claim(s) 14-19, drawn to seed and plants grown therefrom of alfalfa plant designated J-163.

Group VI, claim(s) 20-22, drawn to an isolated DNA polynucleotide primer molecule.

Group VII, claim(s) 23, drawn to a method of breeding using an alfalfa event J-163.

Group VIII, claim(s) 24, drawn to a method of detecting the presence of DNA corresponding to the alfalfa plant J-163 DNA by performing a nucleic acid amplification reaction.

Group IX, claim(s) 25, drawn to a method of detecting the presence of DNA corresponding to the alfalfa plant J-163 DNA by using a probe and hybridization.

Group X, claim(s) 26-28, drawn to an alfalfa plant comprising a glyphosate tolerant trait genetically linked to a complement of a marker polynucleic acid comprising a DNA molecule selected from the group selected from SEQ ID NO: 1-8.

Group XI, claim(s) 29, drawn to an alfalfa plant transformed with the plant expression cassette of pMON20998.

Group XII, claim(s) 30 and 31, drawn to an admixture of seed of alfalfa plants J-101 and J-163.

Group XIII, claim(s) 32, drawn to a method of producing essentially weed-free alfalfa hay comprising planting alfalfa plant designated J-101 or J-163.

2. The inventions listed as Groups I-XIII do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The invention of Group XI was known in the art at the time of Applicant's invention and had been disclosed in U.S. Patent 6,462,258 (Fincher *et al* published 8 October 2002) see Table 5 at column 35 (pMON20998) and column 14, line 7 (alfalfa as a suitable target plant of interest suitable host for nucleic acid constructs). Hence, the claims do not relate to a single general inventive concept because they lack the same special technical features.

3. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete within one month (not less than 30 days) must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR § 1.143).

4. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR § 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR § 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR § 1.17(i).

5. In addition, if Applicant elects Group II, VI or X then **Applicant is required to elect** one nucleic acid sequence (e.g. SEQ ID NO 1) to be examined in conjunction with the elected group of claims. The Patent and Trademark Office recently published its policy for the examination of patent applications that claim large numbers of nucleotide sequences in the Official Gazette, 1192 O.G. 68 (November 19, 1996). Nucleotide sequences encoding different proteins are structurally distinct chemical compounds and are unrelated to one another. These sequences are thus deemed to normally constitute independent and distinct inventions within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 121. Absent evidence to the contrary, each such nucleotide is presumed to represent an

independent and distinct invention, subject to a restriction requirement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 121 and 37 CFR § 1.141. In establishing the new policy, the Commissioner has partially waived the requirements of 37 CFR § 1.141et seq. and permits a reasonable number of such nucleotide sequences to be claimed in a single application. It has been determined that normally ten sequences constitute a reasonable number for examination purposes. The Official Gazette Notice of November 19, 1996 is one that permits the examiner to waive restriction to no more than one invention. Since 1996, databases and resource allocations at the PTO have changed and the examination of 10 sequences on the merits in the instant application would present a burden on PTO resources. Additionally, it is noted that one nucleotide and one amino acid sequence is within the O.G. notice range of "up to ten" sequences. This election is not to be construed as an election of species.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David H. Kruse, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-0799. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anne Marie Grunberg can be reached at (571) 272-0975. The fax telephone number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group Receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.

DAVID H. KRUSE, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER



David H. Kruse, Ph.D.
18 December 2007

7. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to (571) 272-0547.

Patent applicants with problems or questions regarding electronic images that can be viewed in the Patent Application Information Retrieval system (PAIR) can now contact the USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center (Patent EBC) for assistance. Representatives are available to answer your questions daily from 6 am to midnight (EST). The toll free number is (866) 217-9197. When calling please have your application serial or patent number, the type of document you are having an image problem with, the number of pages and the specific nature of the problem. The Patent Electronic Business Center will notify applicants of the resolution of the problem within 5-7 business days. Applicants can also check PAIR to confirm that the problem has been corrected. The USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center is a complete service center supporting all patent business on the Internet. The USPTO's PAIR system provides Internet-based access to patent application status and history information. It also enables applicants to view the scanned images of their own application file folder(s) as well as general patent information available to the public.

For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center (UCC) at 800-786-9199.